



# Impact Report

2023



the  
tiny  
miracles®  
FOUNDATION

# “Life itself is the miracle of miracles.”

- George Bernard Shaw

Dear Friends,

This past year was one of growth and expansion for The Tiny Miracles Foundation.

We provided more support to more families via more programs than ever before in the history of our organization. We bolstered our staff with the addition of a Bilingual social worker. And, we centralized all our administrative, programming and volunteer operations in a new office.

Each and every day we help the tiny miracles in our community by providing support to families of premature babies – emotionally, practically and financially.

Our work, and the amazing results of this past year, are only possible because of your generous support and partnership.

On behalf of Tiny Miracles - and the families that we support every day - we thank you.



**Tina Tison**  
Executive Director



**Ashley Dineen**  
President, Board of Directors

# 127

Families awarded  
financial aid via  
Tiny Miracles

# 1664

Tiny Treasure items  
(bags and blankets)  
distributed in partner NICUs

# 648

Families mentored by  
Tiny Miracles

# 500+

Volunteers supporting  
Tiny Miracles

In 2023, Tiny Miracles reached **more families than at any previous point in our nearly 20 year history.**

In-person mentoring at all 6 partner hospitals was complemented by virtual mentoring where necessary. Monthly “After The NICU” education sessions, connection meetings and social gatherings provided ongoing support to families.

# Michael & Nicholas

## Born at 29 weeks

“I didn’t know anyone else who went through what we went through being almost 3 months premature. Tiny Miracles showed such empathy - they had been where I was and shared experiences. It was beyond the advice, it was just humanizing and comforting to be amongst such caring people who have walked the path too.”

- Michael & Nicolas’ mom



Michael Joseph  
2lb 14 oz



Nicholas Anthony  
1lb 6 oz



# Maternal & Infant Mental Health Panel

On Wednesday, March 29, Tiny Miracles hosted its first ever Maternal & Infant Mental Health Panel for volunteers and professionals from the community. The free event included dinner and provided nursing continuing education credits.

Maternal mental health, and by default infants' mental health, has been at the center of Tiny Miracles' mission since its inception. Our peer parent mentors, who have each experienced the preterm birth of their child and subsequent NICU stay, provide invaluable support to NICU families. Peer parent mentors share their experiences and often help decrease the feelings of worry, guilt, sadness, isolation, confusion, and anger for families beginning their NICU journey.

The event was funded by a grant from Union Savings Bank Foundation.



# Paying it Forward

## Racing to Help Tiny Miracles

Bryan & Lindsay Quinlan connected with Tiny Miracles after experiencing the loss of their daughter Caileigh, who was born prematurely at 19 weeks. Motivated by the support they received from the organization, the family decided to give back in a meaningful way.

Each year, they host a fundraiser for Tiny Miracles on opening day at Saratoga Racetrack. Their efforts have raised over \$30,000 for the organization to date.

Thank you, Bryan and Lindsay!



## The Anna & Raven Show Dance-A-Thon

Inspired by the NICU journey of her cousin, Star 99.9 Radio Host Anna Zap created a unique event to rally support for Tiny Miracles in a fun way!

Since 2022, the Anna & Raven Show Dance-A-Thon invites local dance schools to participate and perform at the SoNo Collection mall during a day-long dance party in the spring. Each year the event draws hundreds of dancers, a huge crowd and raises nearly \$15,000 in donations.

# Kayden

## Born at 34 weeks

“Tiny Miracles has been very helpful in helping our family heal after the NICU. The family days, meet ups, and other gatherings have been very supportive and comforting being able to share experiences with other parents who understand what our family has been through.”



“The mentors have been so amazing,  
I decided to become one myself!”

Kayden's Mom

**“Life is a Series of Tiny Miracles”**  
Annual Gala honoring Dr. Gerry Rakos  
April 29, 2023  
Fairfield Theater Company



**In 2023, the Annual Gala and Golf events generated more than \$250,000 to support Tiny Miracles' mission.**



**Annual Golf Tournament**  
October 2, 2023  
Aspetuck Valley Country Club



# Reuniting Throughout The Year

One of the most beloved programs at Tiny Miracles is the annual NICU Reunion known as **"Family Fun Day."** We've worked with so many families through the years that we now host TWO NICU reunions annually - in the Spring and in the Fall. In 2023, we hosted families at Cranbury Park and Stepping Stones Museum for Family Fun Days.

Because we love seeing how "tiny miracles" grow into energetic young people, we also now host regular **"NICU Alumni Gatherings."** All these free events help families to stay connected with each other and with Tiny Miracles.



# Carmita Ceja Chiodi



In October, we welcomed the newest member of the Tiny Miracles staff.

Carmita Ceja Chiodi is our new Bilingual Peer Parent Mentor.

Funding for this important position was generously provided by the George and Carol Bauer Family Foundation.

Carmita brings many years of professional social work via her time at the Center for Family Justice where she worked as a domestic violence and sexual abuse advocate. On a personal level, Carmita was in the NICU with her 2 sons and, via those experiences, saw Tiny Miracles first-hand. She is fluent in both Spanish and English which will enable her to support many of our families in an authentic way.

En octubre, le dimos la bienvenida al miembro más nuevo del personal de Tiny Miracles. Carmita Ceja Chiodi es nuestra nueva madre mentora bilingüe. La financiación para este importante puesto fue proporcionada generosamente por la Fundación de la Familia George y Carol Bauer.

Carmita aporta muchos años de trabajo social profesional a través de su tiempo en el Centro de Justicia Familiar, donde trabajó como defensora de violencia doméstica y abuso sexual. A nivel personal, Carmita estuvo en la NICU con sus 2 hijos y, a través de esas experiencias, conoció Tiny Miracles de primera mano. Habla español e inglés con fluidez, lo que le permitirá apoyar a muchas de nuestras familias de una manera auténtica.

# Emma

## Born at 30 weeks

"I had my baby at 30 weeks. I was afraid and didn't know what was happening or what to expect. I was scared for my baby's life. She only weighed 3 lbs.

The first time I saw my baby she was in the incubator, and the first time I felt her was after a couple of days. Throughout my time at the NICU, I was fortunate enough to come across a beautiful foundation called Tiny Miracles. They provided me emotional support at a much needed time, and they were able to provide transportation for me to see my daughter daily. I am grateful for everything this foundation has done for my family and me."



Emma, pictured here in the NICU with the bonding doll received in her Tiny Treasures Welcome Bag.

"I hope this foundation continues to grow and help many more families."

Emma's Mom

# A New Office thanks to The Darien Foundation

One of the biggest highlights of 2023 was a \$100,000 grant from The Darien Foundation to build out new headquarters space to consolidate all Tiny Miracles operations. Previously, Tiny Miracles held office space in Darien, but it could not accommodate the programming and support that we provide annually throughout Southwest Connecticut.

The new, central location will provide greater efficiency within the organization as well as visibility of our mission, and additional volunteer and programming opportunities to support its growing reach.

Tiny Miracles moved into the new space in December and immediately started using the space to host family programs, mentor education sessions and volunteer gatherings to assemble Tiny Treasures bags, care packages and blankets for NICU families.

We hope to see you soon for an upcoming event at our new office!

**1540 Post Road  
Darien, CT 06820**



# Our Supporters

Our programs would not be possible without the generous gifts from these supporters received between January 1-December 31, 2023.

## **\$50,000+**

The Darien Foundation

## **\$30,000 - \$49,999**

The George and Carol Bauer Family Foundation

The Godina Family

Michael and Elizabeth Klein

Chris and Carrie Shumway Foundation

## **\$15,000 - \$29,999**

Mike and Jaclyn Carbino

The Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation

Tom and Gwen Noto

The Prolacta Bioscience Foundation

Stamford Health

The Wilson Family Foundation

## **\$10,000 - \$14,999**

Crane Charitable Funds

Near and Far Aid

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Broder Orland Murray & DeMattie LLC

David and Ashley Dineen

Elizabeth Raymond Ambler Trust

Ernest and Joan Trefz Foundation

First County Bank Foundation

Forecastle Advisors LLC

Blake and Laura Franchi

David and Kim Januszewski

Jefferies LLC

Jeff and Eila Johnson

Réal and Tara Leclerc

The Lloyd Family Charitable Fund

The Petit Family Foundation

Prolacta Corporation

St. John's Community Foundation

James and Eileen Thomas

Tony Truino

Yale New Haven Children's Hospital

## **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Arch W. Shaw Foundation

Bank of America Private Bank

Berkowitz & Hanna Charitable Fund

Liam and Heather Burke

Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP

The Charles and Mabel P. Jost Foundation

William Cusick

Denise D'Ascenzo Foundation

Blade and Bow Kentucky Bourbon

Tim and Cheryl Egan

The Umbrella Club

The First Presbyterian Church

Fred and Vivienne McMullen

Michael and Pat Gallo

David and Julie Genovese

The Goodnow Fund

Nuvance Health

Heath and Alyssa Kent

Lone Pine Foundation

George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation

Jonathan and Beatriz Mayhew

New Canaan Community Foundation

Russo & Rizio, LLC

Jakub Skoniecki

Peter Sommerfield

St. Vincent's Medical Center

Sunrise Rotary 21st Century Foundation

Miguel and Ariane Triay

John and Chelsea Woody

## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Daniel and Jen Anderson

Bankwell Financial Group

The Barno Family

Dave and Rachel Bennett

Noiel and Lauren Brill

Mike and Katie Brill

Phil and Kerri Cagnassola

Cedar Street Charitable Foundation

Vincent and Elizabeth Childers

Sara Church

John and Jen Ciannella

Jake and Alice Clark

Cross Private Client Insurance

Mark and Alexis Czeterko

Darrell Harvey Family Foundation

The Delaney Memorial Foundation

Brett and Laura DeShay

John and Arlene Dougherty

Mardi and David Durkin

Alexander and Erin Eblen

Joseph and Barbara Esterly

Ethel & Abe Lapidés Foundation

Dennis and Maria Fedele

The Glassmeyer Family

Daniel and Andrea Gottschall

Andrew and Lauren Greig

Bill Gustafson

Scott and Abbey Handleman

Bill and Samantha Harrigan

Darrell Harvey

Randy and Cindy Heck

Mike and Jill Hooper

Bill and Kristin Jennings

Jeff Kahn

Christopher and Caitlin Kirklin

Anastasia Klyuchinskaya

John and Anne-Marie Knight

Ludwig and Kimel Lalanne

Kevin and Brooke Lalumiere

Little Giraffe Foundation

Kathy LiVolsi

M&T Bank

Anna Nelson

Jared Nussbaum

Rob and Cathleen O'Boyle

Barbara J. Oliver Fund

James and Tamara Pardo

Pierre A. RoCHAT Family

Pietrini/Smith Charitable Fund

PURE Insurance

Bryan and Lindsay Quinlan

Gerald and Lynn Rakos

Alok and Cindy Reejhsinghani

John Ricciardi

George and Susie Richards

Michael and Carrie Ruhlman

S&P Dow Jones Indices

Chris Santucci

Savings Bank of Danbury

Foundation

Elisabeth Schneider

Linda May Smith

Robert Smith

Doug and Cameron Sokolik

Scott and Robin Srolis

Thrush Group High Tower

Joe and Tina Tison

Town Fair Tire Foundation

Elliot and Emily Turner

Village Pediatrics

Warburg Pincus Foundation

Thomas and Maria Wilcox

William Zaccarelli

**\$500 - \$999**

Allyson Anderson  
 Barnum Foundation For Life  
 Jon and Kimbel Biele  
 Matthew Bizzaro  
 Mike and Sarah Blumberg  
 Brophy Charitable Fund  
 Megan Canfield  
 Connecticut Health Foundation  
 William and Patty Cunningham  
 Darien Sport Shop  
 Laura DeRemia Deremer  
 Ed and Danielle Evans  
 The Garden Homes Fund  
 Ryan and Pamela Garrity  
 GM Financial  
 Janienne P. Hackett Fund  
 Sherif Sheriia Hamid  
 Patrick and Marli Hayes  
 Robert and Paula Herzlinger  
 Ken and Tanya Jacobi  
 Megan Kilcourse  
 Killen Charitable Giving  
 Toffer and Lulu Kleinbeck  
 Katherine and Andrew Kohari  
 Vicki Kritsovas  
 The Kunin Family  
 Jimmy and Krystle LaManna  
 Lindy Family Foundation  
 LBMC Cares Foundation  
 Wally and Melissa Lobo  
 Sean and Kasey Madgett  
 Frank and Jessica Mauro  
 Neysa McDonia McDonald  
 Elizabeth Nadal  
 Nedder & Associates LLC  
 Odd Job Landscaping  
 Palmer's Market  
 Pediatric Healthcare Associates / Dr. Freedman  
 John and Susan Pettenati  
 Benjamin and Erica Pomerantz  
 Thomas and Marianne Reifenheiser  
 Renwick Sports  
 John and Shelby Saer  
 Peter and Meghan Salonia  
 Richard and Kathy Sandhaus  
 Spinnaker Real Estate Partners  
 Mike and Kaitlyn Steffa  
 Jermaine and Krystin Sylva  
 Richard and Shirley Viscarello  
 Elizabeth Whitaker  
 Jeff and Alicia Wiedemann  
 Ted and Christine Yang  
 Nolan Zeide

**\$250 - \$499**

Charlie and Katie Adams  
 Amazon Smile  
 Emily Ceisler and Mark Blitzer  
 Matt Bluestein  
 Karin Bombard  
 Ed Borkowski  
 Vin and Lynne Burke  
 Pamela Clark  
 Diana Davis  
 Teri Deal  
 Joseph and Jessica Defeo  
 Mike and Jenn Dooher  
 Stephen and Barbara Duscio  
 Matt and Ashlee Effler  
 Albert and Samantha Eskenazi  
 Fairfield County Music Studio  
 Fedlesand Families  
 Bruce and Shari Feibel  
 David and Dorothy Fitton  
 Dave and Jen Forrier  
 Daniel Franchi  
 Richard and Nancy Freedman  
 Simone Gignoux  
 Jonathan Grant  
 Bobby Horn  
 The Ibbitson Family  
 Andrea Kosack  
 Matthew and Katarina Kraft  
 Daniel and Krista Lilly  
 Lone Pine Capital LLC  
 Tamu and John Lucero  
 William Macy Jr.  
 Malcom and Tina Miller  
 Kayla Murphy  
 Katharine O'Brien  
 Ian and Debbie O'Malley  
 Utpal Parekh  
 Ring's End Inc  
 Brent and Chrissie Rupp  
 John Saunders  
 Jeff O'Brien and Kristen Sawyer  
 James and Katrina Schellens  
 Sosnow Foundation  
 System Specialties Inc  
 Groundswell Charitable Foundation/  
 Chloe Tripeau  
 Yari Usherov  
 Gerrit and Cristina Veeder  
 Richard and Sheila Weaver  
 Mike Zilinski

**In Memory Of**

Jade Melody Alberto  
 Theo Charles Allbee  
 Dr. Jeffrey L. Bartlett  
 Logan Patrick Bates  
 Bruce Deshay  
 John Jacob Duggan  
 Frankie Ann Flanagan  
 Philomena Gallo  
 Mackenzie Marie Glynn  
 Baby Dom Gabriel Grossman  
 Lucas Michael Lopez  
 Ben and Chase Ortolani  
 Olivia Queenan  
 Calliope James Richey  
 Harper Schwindt

**In Honor Of**

River Adzima  
 Anacapri Rose Baker  
 Sophia Antoinette Baker  
 The Barlaam Family  
 Enzo Bellofatto  
 Lea Benvenuti  
 Olivia Boccamazzo  
 Griffin and Shepard Burke  
 Lincoln Canfield  
 Sean and Megan Canfield  
 Gary and Cynthia Cook  
 Evan Cunningham  
 Duke Dineen  
 Reagan Donegan  
 Ava Marie Duscio  
 Victoria Effler  
 Jason Vincent Fiore  
 Braden Franchi  
 Dr. Rick Freedman  
 Bella Ghiorzo  
 Thomas Godina and Josie Homrighaus  
 Charles Greig  
 Amber Horelick  
 The Kirklin Family  
 Leelee Klein  
 Jeff Lamarche  
 Jess Lara  
 Luca Lara-Phillips  
 Weston Lauria  
 Calian Lecates  
 Gwen Noto  
 Cash Quinlan  
 The Quinlan Family  
 Dr. Gerald Rakos  
 Abigail Salonia  
 Charlotte and Baker Snyder  
 Eliana Jade Snyder  
 Fran Sur  
 Michael and Nicholas van Schaick  
 The Tiny Miracles Office Staff  
 Liz Wemyss

We are grateful for all support but are not able to list more than these names due to space limitations.

In 2023, numerous people and businesses supported Tiny Miracles by generously giving their time, talent and resources in creative ways.

Please contact our office if you have an idea to support our mission via a special fundraiser or in-kind giving.

### Special Event Fundraisers hosted by friends of The Tiny Miracles Foundation

Star 99.9 Dance-A-Thon  
(A Connoisseur Media event sponsored by Cadillac of Greenwich)  
J. McLaughlin Sip and Shop  
The Princess Ball  
Allen Stevenson School STEM Students  
Washington Commanders (via the NFL "My Cleats, My Cause" initiative)  
O'Neill And Son's Moving  
Girl Scout Troop 50545  
Multiple Campaigns from Meta Platform

### In Kind Donors

Awesome Toys	Grieb's Pharmacy
Al's Angels	Harvard Business School (via Community Partners)
Leslie Becker	Jonathan & Erica Janiec
Blade & Bow Kentucky Bourbon	Leelee Klein
Boomers Loomers	Donna Mansfield
Allison Bostrom	Michael Joseph Catering
Sharon Bzdawka	Ivanoba Mota
Olivia Castro	Nagy Jeweler
CDB LTD	Rahkia Nance
Colony Grill	Lori Oates
Colored Organics	Nancy Owens
Kevin Cota	Stacy Parks
Laurie Crago	Pro Bono Partnership
Mia Cueva	Margaret Ragsdale
Liz Dalton	Room to Grow
Al Diguideo	Stepping Stones Museum for Children
Dana Dunn	Rashida Taher
Rose Emily	Elisa Uhrynowski
Evielicious Delights	Rhonda Underhill
Carol Fish	Union Savings Bank
Joanna Gang	Sharon Urso
Ellen Goode	Whole Foods (Darien location)

**Tiny Miracles has earned Candid's highest level of recognition for a tax-exempt organization.**

**This honor is reserved for non-profits that regularly disclose detailed information about mission, budget and programs.**

**The Platinum seal assures that we publicly make available the information you need to support our work with trust and confidence.**



**[www.ttmf.org](http://www.ttmf.org)**